

**HEALTH ELIGIBILITY CENTER
Atlanta, GA**

GEOGRAPHIC MEANS TEST (GMT)

TECHNICAL MANUAL

IVMB*2*686

December 2002

Department of Veterans Affairs

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Introduction

Overview

On January 23, 2002, President Bush signed into law Public Law 107-135, *The Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001*. Section 202 of this Act requires the implementation of HUD indices to determine geographic income thresholds in support of more discrete means testing. Veterans in Priority Group 7 are eligible for treatment as a low-income family under section 3(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)) for the area in which such veterans reside, regardless of whether such veterans are treated as single person families under paragraph (3)(A) of such section 3(b) or as families under paragraph (3)(b). This Act also established Priority Group 8 for any veterans described in section 1710(a)(3) of titles 38 U.S.C. who are not covered by Priority Group 7. Refer to Appendix A for a GMT Enrollment Priority / Copayment Status Matrix.

Development of the GMT software is a combined effort on the part of Office of Policy and Planning (OPP), Office of Information (OI), and Chief Business Office (CBO).

A one-time conversion of Means Test Copay Required veterans who declined to provide income information, whose means test is greater than one year old or whose current income is greater than the MT threshold will occur only in the HEC Legacy system upon implementation of the GMT software. This conversion will determine whether these veterans should be placed in the new Priority Group 8 or the new GMT Copay Required means test status. The results of the conversion will be transmitted to all applicable VAMCs upon completion of the process. Refer to Appendix B of this document for a conversion matrix for MT Copay Required veterans.

During the processing of the GMT Conversion, a HEC user can monitor the progress by running the GMT Conversion Processing Report.

Related Manuals

GMT Release Notes (IVMB_2_P686_TM.PDF)
GMT Installation Guide (IVMB_2_P686_IG.PDF)
GMT User Manual (IVMB_2_P686 UM.PDF)

Implementation and Maintenance

Implementation

For detailed installation instructions, refer to the GMT Installation Guide.

GMT Conversion

After installation is completed, you must queue the GMT Conversion process via TaskMan to begin on the appropriate date (on or about January 3, 2003). **Do not run the conversion before January 1, 2003, or before you receive confirmation that all VISTA field sites have installed all patches associated with GMT.**

Initiating the Conversion

To initiate the conversion process, invoke the one-time GMT Conversion option [IVMB PATCH 686 GMT CONVERSION]. If you opt to proceed with the conversion, the task will be queued via TaskMan to begin one hour in the future. In the following example, user responses are shown in **bold**.

```
>D ^XUP

Setting up programmer environment
Terminal Type set to: C-VT320

Select OPTION NAME: IVMB PATCH 686 GMT CONVERSION

ONE-TIME GMT CONVERSION PROCESS for IVMB*2*686

You are about to start the GMT Conversion
process beginning with Master IEN #1.

Do you want to continue? NO// YES

Start up GMT Conversion processing --
Request queued as Task #6365940.

Task queued for 1/3/2003 12:36:28 am.
```

The conversion does not go through the IVM MASTER CLIENT File (#300.12) in one long, continuous process. The number of veteran records processed in any given run will depend upon the number of nodes contained in the AZ11 index of File #300.11 at the time. The GMT Conversion module holds a parameter which specifies the maximum number of nodes allowed in the AZ11 index. In any conversion run, the number of records to be converted will be:

Maximum allowed index nodes minus Current number of index nodes

If this difference is 100 or more, the task will proceed with the conversion; otherwise, the task is simply re-queued to start again one hour in the future. After this limited number has been processed, the conversion task will automatically queue itself again to run again one hour in the future in order to process the next batch of records. It will queue itself again until all enrolled veterans in File #300.12 have been processed. If the process is interrupted by a system shutdown or application error, you can restart it via the IVMB PATCH 686 GMT CONVERSION option.

The conversion parameter for the maximum allowable number of AZ11 nodes will be set to 25,000 when the conversion is initially tasked. It may be adjusted as needed by a user with programmer mode access. In the following example, user responses are shown in **bold**.

```
>D MAXQ^IVMB686U
Resetting maximum number of AZ11 nodes for GMT Conversion process --
Currently this maximum is set at: 25000
Maximum entries in AZ11 xref: (1000-50000): 50000
Resetting...
```

Maintenance

GMT Conversion Processing Report

During the processing of the GMT Conversion, you can monitor the progress by running the GMT Conversion Processing Report. The report will be sent at the end of every GMT Conversion run. It displays cumulative totals of veterans converted by Means Test status. The report is sent via MailMan to G.ENROLLMENT LETTER PROCESSING at HEC.

Sample Report

```
IVMB*2*686 -- GMT CONVERSION PROCESSING
```

```
Report date/time: 11/14/2002 9:48:11 pm
Start date/time: 11/12/2002 2:30:14 pm
Last Master IEN processed: 697233
Next Conversion Task #: 6366029
Total number of Enrolled veterans processed: 154102
Total number of Enrolled veterans converted: 10001
```

```
Property Threshold calculation used Total Income + Net Worth.
```

```
=====
```

MT Date >= 365 days ago

Old MT Status	New MT Status	Old Priority	New Priority	Total
P	P	7	8	144
C	C	5	8	20
C	C	7	5	1
C	C	7	8	4952
C (Declines)	C (Declines)	5	8	14
C (Declines)	C (Declines)	7	8	2673

MT Date < 365 days ago & GMTT > MTT

Old MT Status	New MT Status	Old Priority	New Priority	Total
P	P	7	8	4
C	C	5	6	1
C	C	7	8	458
C	G	4	4	1
		Income less than GMTT		(1)
		Net worth over threshold		(0)
C	G	6	6	59
		Income less than GMTT		(52)
		Net worth over threshold		(7)
C	G	7	7	603
		Income less than GMTT		(484)
		Net worth over threshold		(119)

GMT Conversion Processing Report, continued

MT Date < 365 days ago & GMTT <= MTT

Old MT Status	New MT Status	Old Priority	New Priority	Total
P	P	7	8	12
C	C	7	8	312
C (Declines)	C (Declines)	5	8	1
C (Declines)	C (Declines)	7	8	745

=====

Overall Totals --

Converted while Pending Adjudication:	160
Converted to Exempt due to Net Worth:	0
Converted to GMT Copay Required due to Income:	537
Converted to GMT Copay Required due to Net Worth:	126
Converted to Priority Group 5	1
Converted to Priority Group 7	603
Converted to Priority Group 8	9335
Converted to Priority Group 8 due to Income:	770
Converted to Priority Group 8 due to lapsed MT:	5116
Converted to Priority Group 8 - declines to give info:	3433

Once the GMT Conversion process has completed, the IVMB PATCH 686 GMT CONVERSION option should either be disabled or deleted.

Files

File List

The GMT software adds the following new files:

File #	File Name	Description	Global
742087	GMT THRESHOLDS	Contains GMT Thresholds information	[^] AYCGMT(742087,
742096	GMT MSA	Contains GMT MSA information	[^] AYCMSA(742096,

File Flow (Relationships Between Files)

1. VA FileMan
2. Data Dictionary Utilities Menu
3. List File Attributes Option
4. Enter File # (or range of File #s)
5. Select Standard listing format
6. You will see what files point to the selected file. To see what files the selected file points to, look for fields that say “Pointer To”.

Routines

Routine List

The following is a list of IVMB routines with checksums included in the GMT software. The second line of each of these routines will look like:

```
<tab>; ; 2.0; INCOME VERIFICATION; ** [patch list] **; May 25, 1994
```

Routine name	Before Patch	After Patch	Patch List
AYAZ05	2854545	3307972	2,174,217,243,418 521,635,680,692,693 686
AYAZ052	2458618	3222821	24,2,686
AYCBBP1	14945427	14945472	256,450,686
AYCBBUT7	7637796	7640520	256,455,686
AYCBCADR	9334615	8914740	229,248,438,686
AYCBCDT1	2118123	2219329	277,392,453,686
AYCBCDT2	3442251	3563048	277,392,453,686
AYCBCEN	9527364	9591679	277,392,399,453,497 455,614,686
AYCBCMN	13903817	13857767	277,510,455,463,601 686
AYCBEGT	2985576	2985658	392,453,487,614,686
AYCBEGT1	5686287	5705082	392,614,686
AYCBEGT3	9445095	9445136	392,427,614,686
AYCBENA1	12281537	12810815	190,257,290,315,392 453,485,506,523,455 491,614,544,686
AYCBENA4	5966573	6080039	392,455,614,686
AYCBENAV	5179127	5260933	188,195,201,221,190 257,287,295,330,359 392,455,532,601,620 686
AYCBHL71	1440223	2159093	356,686
AYCBLTR1	4772449	4809075	178,189,394,392,398 400,405,416,420,425 411,453,487,535,567 614,686
AYCBLTRI	6870642	6870725	392,398,400,420,453 487,686
AYCBLTRV	7337952	7667540	198,248,392,411,453 487,491,535,686
AYCBPRI2	3229846	3242113	392,453,614,686
AYCBPRIO	8449309	8724400	94,120,132,141,142 188,235,241,392,453 455,491,636,686
AYCBRLT1	5920567	5974778	453,686
AYCBRLT2	7320475	7590996	453,614,686
AYCBTAAC	10277952	10280676	125,224,313,332,401, 455,561,601,628,634, 645,686
AYCBUTIL	5599737	5607705	201,206,228,190,238 356,277,392,455,491 614,612,686

Routine list with checksums, continued

AYCBUTL1	8931832	9169394	229, 279, 340, 686
AYCBUTL2	5663532	5666256	248, 332, 455, 601, 686
AYCBVUTL	14563366	14972237	190, 257, 281, 287, 295 340, 332, 392, 401, 417 428, 455, 570, 696, 686
AYCEPHPC	9795909	9998622	491, 614, 686
AYCGMTLP	N/A	7038181	686
AYCGMTUL	N/A	5381563	686
AYCHLSA7	8435377	9003270	412, 600, 627, 686
AYCHZ07	11211015	12059203	642, 687, 695, 712 686
AYCHZ071	5468937	5970580	642, 695, 686
AYCHZ103	4628930	5140431	395, 679, 627, 686
AYCHZMT	7315236	7754183	642, 626, 694, 695, 686
AYCMTSR1	18508183	18628695	600, 630, 646, 682, 686
AYCMTSR2	12130488	12246613	600, 630, 646, 682, 686
AYCMTSR3	10933079	11053591	646, 682, 686
AYCNMF31	10126020	12039971	548, 593, 613, 618, 621, 686
AYCZIP	5459579	7385832	163, 197, 209, 686
IVMB686	N/A	2116679	686
IVMB686P	N/A	16910283	686
IVMB686R	N/A	20743316	686
IVMB686U	N/A	9094153	686
IVMBAIL1	N/A	1830914	686
IVMBAILK	N/A	7270098	686
IVMBZ05	6234409	6268459	3, 1, 105, 123, 642 686
IVMBZ05A	4046696	5002416	642, 686
IVMBZ07	9672313	12290494	1, 83, 90, 95, 126 129, 202, 153, 287, 288 392, 407, 455, 491, 530 608, 573, 686
IVMBZ071	5738489	5956608	83, 95, 530, 686
IVMBZ07A	6287478	6470255	72, 3, 83, 90, 95 159, 249, 190, 257, 288 295, 335, 356, 395, 501 530, 608, 573, 686
IVMBZ07B	5794104	7117119	501, 562, 651, 626, 683 686
IVMBZ07M	10455772	11006132	395, 458, 655, 626, 675 681, 683, 694, 686
IVMBZ07N	9607645	9871077	395, 458, 626, 686
IVMBZ07O	13561980	14406724	458, 626, 544, 694, 686
IVMBZMT	7066124	7521485	1, 260, 288, 333, 395 455, 562, 626, 686
IVMD502	3237582	3261079	400, 686
IVMDAJ	2453451	3367251	475, 566, 686
IVMDCAL	11817350	12773568	33, 471, 514, 585, 686
IVMDCAL2	13232162	15605313	23, 26, 395, 36, 686
IVMDCALP	12441494	14069789	395, 36, 590, 655, 675 686
IVMDCM01	14227905	14657065	638, 686
IVMDCMLT	31835597	32215616	638, 686
IVMDDOCK	6475131	6634552	686
IVMDHDA	4300954	4432123	395, 686
IVMDHDA1	9249680	9321917	395, 409, 686
IVMDMTA1	8397028	9565848	395, 600, 626, 686
IVMDMTA2	7690138	8166859	395, 600, 686

Routine list with checksums, continued

IVMDNR	2621736	2860809	26, 565, 686
IVMDPTA	3860357	5184122	395, 626, 686
IVMDPTA1	12091698	12817528	395, 36, 626, 627, 686
IVMDPTA4	6982785	8423945	409, 686
IVMDPTA5	7687972	8299039	409, 544, 686
IVMDPTA6	9630675	9960754	409, 686
IVMDPTA7	12290506	12662886	409, 686
IVMDPTA8	10858816	11442188	409, 686
IVMDRFS	1959781	2160713	26, 686
IVMDRO2	10620643	11527651	36, 686
IVMDZ051	8216359	9015719	243, 642, 686
IVMDZ103	4748885	5260386	395, 627, 686
IVMEUTL2	3512557	3551369	94, 167, 534, 686
IVMEWL	13375515	12227735	6, 8, 31, 252, 686
IVMEWL1	N/A	3135474	686
IVMR5	4765414	4891551	3, 686

Exported Options

GMT provides the following two new user options. These options will need to be assigned to the appropriate individuals as a secondary menu option, or added to an existing menu option.

GMT Threshold Address Look-up [AYCGMT ADDRESS LOOKUP]
GMT Threshold Lookup by Zip code [AYCGMT THRESHOLD LOOKUP/ZIP]

The following option is also included in the patch, but should be restricted to use by those staff members who will be implementing and maintaining the GMT software.

One-time GMT Conversion (IVMB*2*686) [IVMB PATCH 686 GMT CONVERSION]

Archiving & Purging

There are no archiving and/or purging capabilities exported with the GMT software.

External Interfaces

The GMT software makes the following modifications to HL7 Messaging. For detailed HL7 specifications, refer to the Appendices of the IVM V. 2.0 Technical Manual.

Z05, Demographic Data Transmission

- Added FIPS County Code to the receiver process to support address indexing

Z07, Full Data Transmission from VAMC to HEC

- Added GMT Copayment Status to the ZMT Segment of the Z07 message and builder process
- Added Hardship Reason field to the ZMT Segment of the Z07 message and builder process
- Added RF1 segment to ORU~Z07 & ORF~Z07
- Send FIPS County Code to HEC to support address indexing

Z10, Income Test Data Transmission from HEC to VAMC

- Added GMT Copayment Status to the ZMT Segment.
- Added Hardship Reason field to the ZMT Segment.

External/ Internal Relations

External Relations

The following **VISTA** package versions (or higher) must be running at the HEC prior to installing the GMT software.

- VA FileMan V. 22.0
- VA MailMan V. 8.0
- Kernel V. 8.0
- **VISTA** HL7 V. 1.6

Internal Relations

All of the GMT options are designed to stand alone.

Package-wide Variables

There are no package-wide variables in the GMT software. All variables in the GMT software meet SACC standards.

Software Product Security

Security Features

Mail Groups, Alerts, and Bulletins

There are no new mail groups created by the GMT software.

Remote Systems

The Health Eligibility Center (HEC) system sends eligibility data, enrollment data, income data, and means test data to the local VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) using HL7 messaging. For detailed HL7 specifications, and to view an HL7 Flow Diagram, refer to the appendices of the Income Verification Match (IVM) V. 2.0 Technical Manual in the **VISTA** Documentation Library (VDL) at http://vista.med.va.gov/vdl/Financial_Admin.asp#App44.

Contingency Planning

Using services should have a local contingency plan to be used in the event of application problems in a live environment. The plan should identify the procedure(s) for maintaining the functionality provided by Error Processing Phase 1 software in the event of system outage. Field Station Information Security Officers (ISOs) can get assistance from the regional ISO (RISO).

Interfaces

There are no specialized (not VA-produced) products (hardware and/or software) embedded within or required by the GMT software.

Electronic Signatures

There are no electronic signatures required for the GMT software.

Security Keys

There are no security keys exported with the GMT software.

File Security

The following is a list of recommended VA FileMan access codes for the files in the GMT software.

FILE #	NAME	DD ACCESS	RD ACCESS	WR ACCESS	DEL ACCESS	LAYGO ACCESS
#742087	GMT THRESHOLDS					
#742096	GMT MSA					

References

On January 23, 2002, President Bush signed Public Law 107-135, “The Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001”. Section 202 of this Act requires the implementation of HUD indices to determine geographic income thresholds in support of more discrete means testing. Veterans in Priority Group 7 are eligible for treatment as a low-income family under section 3(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)) for the area in which such veterans reside, regardless of whether such veterans are treated as single person families under paragraph (3)(A) of such section 3(b) or as families under paragraph (3)(b). This Act also established Priority Group 8 for any veterans described in section 1710(a)(3) of titles 38 U.S.C. who are not covered by Priority Group 7.

Glossary

Acronyms and Definitions

Acronyms

Acronym	Description
AI	Address Indexing
AR	Accounts Receivable
CBO	Chief Business Office
EGT	Enrollment Group Threshold
FIPS	Federal Information Processing Standard
GMT	Geographic Means Test
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
IB	Integrated Billing
MT	Means Test
NVS	National VISTA Support
PIMS	Patient Information Management System
VAMC	Veterans Administration Medical Center
OPP	Office of Policy and Planning
OI	Office of Information

Definitions

Term	Definition
Disenrollment	Voluntary request from veteran to discontinue enrollment in the VA Health Care system
GMT Thresholds	a.k.a. HUD Indices. Geographical income level thresholds set yearly by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
MT Thresholds	Income threshold levels set yearly within the VA for the purpose of establishing benefit levels for veterans
HEC Legacy System	M-based database currently in use

Appendix A – GMT Enrollment Priority / Copayment Status Matrix

GMT Enrollment Priority / Copayment Matrix					
Income vs. Thresholds	Estate vs. Net Worth Threshold	Veteran's Enrollment Priority	Exceptions to Veteran's Enrollment Priority	*Copayment Status	Comment
Less than MT	Less than Net Worth Threshold (\$80K)	Priority 5	If Catastrophically Disabled, Priority 4	MT Copay Exempt	
Less than MT	Greater than Net Worth Threshold (\$80K)	Priority 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If exposed to Agent Orange, Ionizing Radiation, or Environmental Contaminants, Priority 6. • If Catastrophically Disabled, Priority 4 	GMT Copay Required	Pending Adjudication Note: In this rule, GMT threshold is greater than MT threshold
Less than MT	Greater than Net Worth Threshold (\$80K)	Priority 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If exposed to Agent Orange, Ionizing Radiation, or Environmental Contaminants, Priority 6. • If Catastrophically Disabled, Priority 4 	MT Copay Required	Pending Adjudication Note: In this rule, GMT threshold is less than MT threshold
Greater than MT Less than GMT	Not applicable	Priority 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If exposed to Agent Orange, Ionizing Radiation, or Environmental Contaminants, Priority 6. • If Catastrophically Disabled, Priority 4 	GMT Copay Required	
Greater than MT Greater than GMT	Not applicable	Priority 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If exposed to Agent Orange, Ionizing Radiation, or Environmental Contaminants, Priority 6. • If Catastrophically Disabled, Priority 4 	MT Copay Required	

***GMT copayment = regular outpatient MT copayment rate and 20% of current inpatient MT copayment rate**

Appendix B – Conversion Matrix for MT Copay Required Veterans

Conversion Matrix for MT Copay Required Veterans			
Current Status		Post Implementation Status	
Enrollment Priority Group	Income Less Than GMT	Enrollment Priority Group	MT Copay Status
4	Yes	4	GMT Copay Required
4	No	4	MT Copay Required
6	Yes	6	GMT Copay Required
6	No	6	MT Copay Required
7	Yes	7	GMT Copay Required Only if MT is within past year & GMT is greater than MT threshold
7	Yes	8	MT Copay Required Only if MT is greater than 365 days
7	No	8	MT Copay Required
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declines to provide financial information • Agrees to Pay Copayments 	8	MT Copay Required
Net Worth determination on all veterans providing income			
Income	Net Worth		
Less than MT	Greater than \$80K	7	GMT Copay Required If GMT threshold is greater than MT threshold
Less than MT	Greater than \$80K	8	MT Copay Required If GMT threshold is less than MT threshold

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